

## 'The Ecstasy of Dancing Fleas'

Like most of the movements, there is no preamble, the music and dance launch straight in. Based on morris dancing, this is an energetic and amusing dance.

### Phrase

1.1 Skips, jumps, toe taps; circle formation.

1.2

All: four toe taps with right foot behind during one turn on self.

1.3

All: three skips, during one turn towards right shoulder on self; jump, kicking feet up to bottom.

2.1

Weave / hey; folk influence.  
Groups alternately travel clockwise and anti-clockwise in a weave or hey, linking hands as they go: two gallops; four little tuck jumps, holding cross grip with partner, facing and turning a full-circle with partner.

2.2

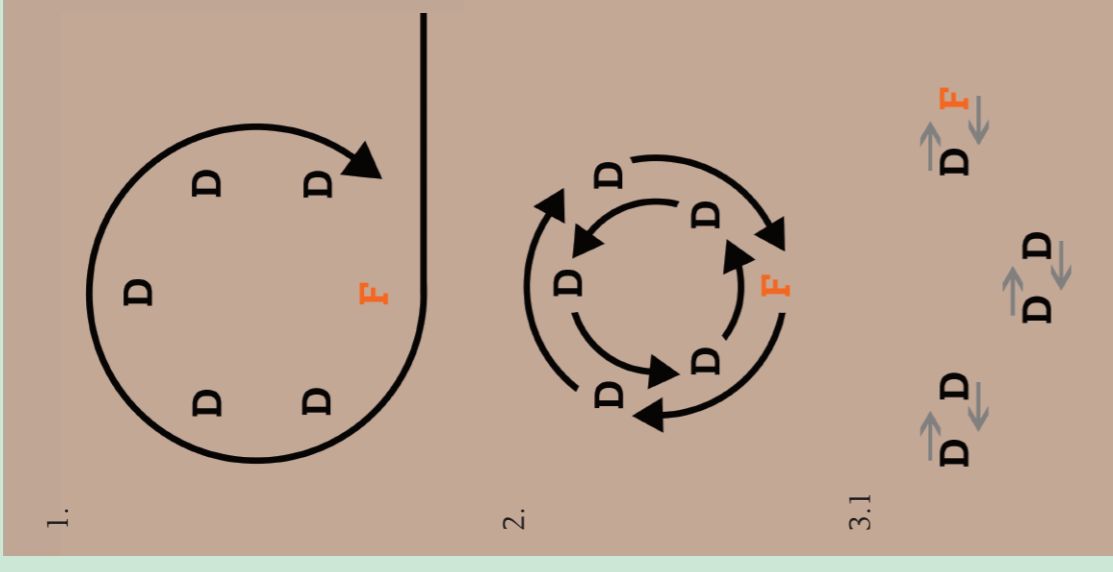
Repeat 2.1 twice more, but on final repetition, add an extra two gallops to make four before tuck jumps as dancers travel to new positions for 3.1.

3.1

Mirroring; partnering work.  
All: facing partners, centre couple further down-stage – counts one and two – brush-kick leg closest to partner *devant*, foot flexed, moving side-by-side then back; hold hands of outside arms, inside arms reach forward, fingers splayed. Counts three and four – tap foot twice.

### Movement

Five men, followed by Flea, skip on and complete one and a half circles over three sets of eight counts.



3.2

Traditional country dancing; unison.

3.3

All: eight skips with stage-right of each pair moving down-stage and stage-left up-stage. Half-turn to return and make off-set line. Those skipping down-stage turn to the right, those skipping up-stage to the left.

3.4

Unison and mirroring.

All: facing alternately up- and down-stage, hopping on alternate feet with hands joined above heads; kick non-supporting leg out to side: left – right – left – left – right – left – right – right.

3.5

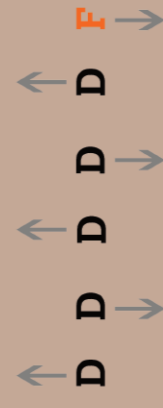
Mockery of steps for comic effect; country dancing.

Men: carry on kicks from 3.4, then follow Flea into tangle on stage right, hands still linked.

4.1 Complex formation for comic effect; solo for Flea.

Flea: after first set of kicks in 3.4, leads men back along line, weaving in and out of men, leading them into a tangled mess on stage-right (all whilst still skipping); leave men on stage-right and skip to stage-left.  
Men: remain in tangle.  
Flea: (all on *demi-pointe*) three steps and a little swish kick; at the same time, swing arms down and left to bring palms together and swing to chest height; repeat steps and arm movements except this time to the right.

3.4



3.5

